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CSA PRESIDENT, DR. DONALD SINGER ADDRESSES PRGA

On Friday, January 26, 1990, PRGA welcomed Dr. Donald Singer, President of the Council of Supervisors and Administrators.

Dr. Singer welcomed the opportunity to speak before us. He, too, feels that a strong partnership between teachers, administrators and the Chancellor, is essential for sound education. He feels that Dr. Fernandez will be better served if he really sought to bring everyone together. Dr. Fernandez' recent actions have posed a lot of questions as to what the partnership will really be. Dr. Singer mentioned the recent dismissal of James Rivers, Principal of Eastern District #5. An issue prior to the dismissal is that of due process and that an individual should not be fired by the press. Dr. Singer emphasizes that a good support for him.

Dr. Singer addressed the following:

Honchi Commission - this is a governor sanctioned, state legislative commission charged with the task of evaluating the 25 years of decentralization. Also charged to the decentralization law must stem from the results of this commission. Presently Chancellor Fernandez is dropping away all components of the decentralization law: in building tenure and process for the selection of supervisors. This should be done through the Honchi Commission.

The CSA feels that decentralization should be evaluated but the concept of decentralization must be maintained - it should not be dismantled - but restructured.

A question was raised from the floor as to the composition of the Honchi Commission and to the role which parents play. Dr. Singer was informed that the Chancellor is charged with members who are not from New York City. He expressed concern and said that he will look into this.

Circular 308 - this is the process by which recommendations are selected. Recently Chancellor Fernandez issued memo outlining draft changes to the present 308 problems. The new changes call for teacher voting rights in Level I of the selection process. The CSA has in fact questions on this rationale. They were not consulted before the changes were proposed.

Building Tenure - (Constitutional transfer) - this becomes part of the decentralization law for the benefit of protecting the role of parents and community school boards from the capricious removal of supervisors from buildings without consultation with the community. Changes in building tenure should again, be a function of the Honchi Commission.

30306A - process of removing incompetent supervisors - CSA does not want incompetent/ineffective supervisors in our schools - we don't want them transferred to other schools. However, there is a process in place which should be followed. Last year the CSA moved to Board President Wagner recommendations for the removal of incompetent supervisors. Dr. Singer is, however, asking these recommendations to Chancellor Fernandez. One of the key recommendations was for the 30306 process to take only 90 days instead of the present one year.

SINGER (Continued)

CSA's involvement in the selection of supervisors/superintendents - it is the policy of the CSA that we do not chase our rating officers because this will constitute a conflict of interest. However, we encourage local CSA chapters to support superintendents candidates if they wish.

CSA's plan to train supervisors in school-based management and shared decision making - There will be an IFE Leadership Institute for Educators' project to provide system-wide "training" for supervisors in school-based management and shared decision making.

Ultimately, who is accountable - CSA's position is that consensus is fine but the ultimate decisions rest with the school supervisor. Supervisors will collaborate, not abdicate. In each County where school-based management is in place, supervisors retained their role power, i.e.

Dr. Singer summarized by again stating CSA's desire to work cooperatively with Dr. Fernandez but reserved the "right to respectfully disagree."

PRGA was pleased with Dr. Singer's remarks, and, pleased with his sincerity to have a dialog. He introduced the Latino Affairs Committee of the CSA, chaired by PRGA member, Angel Villarreal, and encouraged PRGA members to become active. And active we must be and will be.

MARIA GRASP, NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DOHHS

On Monday, February 5, 1990, Maria S. Grasp, assumed the leadership of the Division of Multilingual, Multicultural Education (DOHME). Maria, a former PRGA president, was Deputy Superintendent of CSO 6 and principal of a District 19 elementary school.

Maria cannot be more pleased with Maria's appointment. Throughout her career as an educator, she has been at the forefront of Bilingual Education. She was one of the original members of the Chancellor's Commission on Bilingual Education and presently serves on the State Council on Bilingual Education. Her tenure as PRGA president was critical in strengthening PRGA's position as one of the ten school-based associations in New York City. Her responsibilities as Deputy Superintendent of CSO 6, which has one of the largest LEP populations in the City, have prepared her for this challenging task.

The new Deputy Director of DOHME, Arlene Cervantes, is another exceptional appointment. PRGA also wishes her well.

PRGA stands ready to offer Maria and Arlene whatever assistance they may need and again extends to them its heart-felt congratulations.

SCHOOL-BASED MANAGEMENT/SHARED DECISION MARCH 1990 MEETING

On Friday, April 27 PRGA will have a panel discussion on just what is School-Based Management and Shared Decision Making. Details are still being ironed out - but just reserve this date on your PRGA calendar for a very enlightening discussion on this new-wave reform movement which we all think we understand, but do we really?



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BILINGUAL EDUCATION - UNITY AND SUCCESS FOR THE MINORITIES

The State Association for Bilingual Education (SABE), will hold its 12th annual conference on March 16-18 in Longwood, New York. Its theme, Bilingual Education - Unity and Success for the Minorities addresses this decade's challenge as bilingual educators strive to implement meaningful and appropriate services in order to ensure success, equity and social justice.

Key professionals in the field will present including Dr. Rita Capone, Director of US Department of Bilingual Education; Chancellor Joseph Fernández; Germán Pérez-Huque, State Director of Bilingual Education and Dr. Lourdes Matheis, State Agent.

Activities, panel discussions, workshops, publishers exhibits, cultural entertainment, and a lively dinner dance will round out the conference.

For additional information, contact Dr. Joseph Capone, President of SABE, at 212-641-8815.

WEC CONFERENCE

On Saturday, March 31, 1990, the Hispanic Affairs Committee of the WEC will sponsor their first annual spring conference, "Elevating the Latino Child for the 21st Century." The conference will be at the WEC headquarters, 250 Park Avenue South from 9-3pm. There will be a \$10 registration fee. Free materials will be distributed.

A variety of workshops will be presented including workshops on increasing parental involvement, video technology, restructuring and cooperative learning. Educational video will be shown throughout the day. Dr. Carlos Hernandez has been invited to address the conference.

For additional information, call the PREA Hotline.

WELCOMING MARIANELA PERE

The release of Mariela Pereda, ex-Sundia, February 11, after 27 years of incarceration, was good news indeed. The political creation of South Africa means community to man - is a prior reminder of how far we have yet to go to reach "liberty, and justice for all."

PREA applauds President F. W. de Klerk and welcomes Mr. Pereda home.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS - ONE STEP CLOSER TO GAIN A BOARD OF THE FUTURE

In early February, the New York State Assembly voted 114 to 19 to replace the Board of Examiners. The next hurdle is the State Senate, blocked by James Donovan, Chair, New York State Education Committee. PREA applauds Mr. Donovan and hopes the State Senate wisely reject him for the position of the Board of Examiners.

Certainly PREA agrees with it since it would for inexperienced teachers to enter our classrooms. State certification, passing of a standardized teaching examination, a teaching internship and a very detailed background check would be sufficient for entry into the school system. Bilingual educators should also be tested on their second language, if necessary.

We have good role for before. The State Assembly has voted against the Board of Examiners and has been blocked by the Senate. We have the time to ripe for reform. If we can attract better teachers into our classrooms, the State Senate must stand to the side.

NEW YORK STATE K-12 CURRICULUM TO BE ADVANCED AND POSSIBLY REVISED

Commissioner of Education Thomas Siskel has called for a review and a possible revision of the K-12 curriculum to increase students' understanding of diverse cultures. The present curriculum has been attacked by many ethnic groups for its systematic and overt European culture.

PREA has been active, particularly within the Social Studies curriculum, with this criticism. The state's contributions of Hispanics are often ignored or misrepresented in false stereotypes. PREA feels that this revision is a step forward for all of the ethnic groups that have contributed to this country's greatness. Revisions must encompass all our ethnicities.

Letters supporting revisions should be sent to Commissioner Siskel at the State Education Department in Albany.

PREA SCHOLARSHIP DRIVE'S ON

On Thursday, May 3 at the beautiful Marine Del Rey, Bronx, New York, from 7-10 in the evening, PREA will hold its annual scholarship dinner dance. As you may know, proceeds from this fundraising event go to our scholarship fund.

Share your talents so that you may join us. Our scholarship program need you. Contribution \$15. More information will be forthcoming.

WERNER PEREZ FOR CONGRESS

PREA wishes Assemblyman José Serrano the best of luck in his bid to fill the 15th-Congressional congressional seat left vacant by Robert J. Garcia. It will be heart-breaking to say Mr. Serrano goes to Washington.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join the following upcoming events in your calendar. Please confirm information by calling the hotline.
Friday, February 23 - Germán Pérez-Huque, María Gozo, speakers
Friday, March 30 - Dr. Luis Payer, ASPRA, speaker
Friday, April 27 - School-based Management meeting-nominations for PREA Executive Board
Thursday, May 3 - Scholarship Dinner Dance at Marine Del Rey, Bronx, NY
Friday, May 18 - Scholarship awards ceremony, multicultural immigrants display, elections for PREA Executive Board
Wednesday, June 27 - End-term party

Why join PREA?

You can't afford not to.
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Hotline

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212-932-1292